

# Ex-CIA chief backs working with Libyans to oust Gadhafi

By Tom Burgess, Staff Writer

U.S. intelligence agents should work with Libyans to topple Col. Moammar Gadhafi from power, said a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"If it's done right, I would have no problems with that," said William E. Colby, who headed the CIA from 1973 to 1975, when the agency curtailed covert operations worldwide.

Such operations can be done, with the consent of selected members of Congress, if "we aren't stupid about it," Colby said.

"What really happens is that we don't actually do it. We have someone do it and we help them," Colby said during an editorial board meeting with *The San Diego Union*.

Besides possible covert operations, the United States must have intelligence gathering activities remain current on military movements and on Gadhafi's movements in the north African state.

"You use technology to watch large movements of material and cultivate the right people to report the political developments and dynamics (surrounding Gadhafi)," he said.

"And I would position a group of people, outside Libya, ready to go in at a moment's notice to remove Gadhafi," said Colby, who ran the CIA under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

"Afterward," he said, "(the U.S.) would be blamed anyway."

Colby's position on covert operations hasn't changed much, he said, from his days at the agency.

Critics, including the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, claim Colby and Adm. Stansfield Turner, former President Jimmy Carter's CIA chief, diminished the agency's ability to conduct covert operations.

During his tenure, Colby was responsible for cutting the number of agents in the CIA counterintelligence division from 280 to 80 at a time when the Ford administration was under strong pressure to do so from Capitol Hill.

Under Colby, the agency began favoring advanced satellite photography as a primary intelligence gathering method over the use of agents. The trend was accelerated by Turner, who cut 40 percent, or 820 CIA employees, by 1978.

Colby said the Bush administration will be "good for the agency." Bush was CIA director from 1971-72.

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 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Times \_\_\_\_\_  
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 The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SAN DIEGO UNION (CA)**  
 Date **7 JAN 1989**